

COMMITTEE ON INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Honorable Kymberly Marcos Pine, Chair
Honorable Ikaika Anderson, Vice-Chair

Re: KEEPING OF ANIMALS
Bill 1 (2013)

Thursday, February 14, 2013
2:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE:

Please reconsider and do not impose the proposed changes to City Council Bill 1 (2013) Relating to the Keeping of Roosters and Chickens, Section 7-2.5(d) on page 2. Local folks have enough stresses in life without Government encouraging the introduction of neighborhood nuisance crowing and odors. Chickens and roosters are farm animals -- please keep them out of our urban communities.

The lot size for many residential properties is 5,000 or less square feet -- not enough space to raise seven chickens and a rooster.

If this Bill passes, you will pit neighbors who are raising chickens and roosters against neighbors who are against it. What is now a harmonious and tranquil urban lifestyle will turn into hostile environment with undue stress and perhaps rage. This will not be good.

If sustainability is the concern, why have a rooster that doesn't lay eggs but will create more chickens? Human nature will make chicken owners keep them as pets rather than turn them into the Human Society to maintain the legal count of no more than seven chickens.

Asagi Hatchery, Inc. will sell an egg-laying chick for \$3.50. Does this expense justify nuisance roosters? Please, no.

Chickens don't need a rooster to lay eggs. Local egg merchants do not sell fertilized eggs. Eggs with embryos are only enjoyed by the few

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who have a palate for balut, the Filipino delicacy of sucking out a formed raw embryo from an egg. How many local residents enjoy this delicacy?

This Bill may be the means for creating hundreds of neighborhood egg farmers and the beginning of the end of our local egg merchants who are already struggling to survive against numerous mainland competitors.

If a chicken lays one egg a day multiplied by seven chickens multiplied by seven days a week will equal 49 eggs per week. How many eggs can a person eat per week without eventually having health-related problems? Expect the excess to be sold under the table or given to others who would have bought eggs to support our local famers. For the sake of sustainability three chickens laying 21 eggs a week should be more than enough to sustain a healthy family.

I suspect the authors of this Bill lack the experience of having a neighbor's rooster crow many times during the day and night to include the constant clucking of hens and the reality of the overwhelming stench which is multiplied substantially on humid days with Kona winds. A simple task like hanging laundry out to dry on the clothesline became a problem because of the stench of our neighbor's chicken manure in the air and left us no choice but to use the laundry dryer. As my wife would say, "who wants to go to sleep on freshly laundered sheets reeking of chicken sh*t?"

In the past, my family and two other neighbors were tormented by an inconsiderate chicken owner neighbor for months with growing negativity that degraded the harmony of the neighborhood until our complaints finally encouraged the Humane Society to threaten the chicken owner with fines. The threat of having to pay fines finally encouraged the difficult neighbor to remove their chickens. Needless to say, there is now animosity towards that neighbor.

Who will effectively address the growing number of complaints as a result of this Bill? Today, unlike in the past, the Humane Society no

longer can provide their excellent service to assist victimized neighbors. The result is having the already overstretched police officers get involved in an area they are not trained or equipped to address when the City's contractor is unable to settle complaints.

How can you expect an officer in human criminology and psychology to understand the plight of a neighbor being victimized by a rooster, seven chickens and their noxious odors? Can you expect the officers to issue fines when they have enough human-related paperwork to do? I think not. Another problem with having police officers address chicken complaints is continuity. It is an unfortunate reality to never have the same police officer enforce the law resulting in every complaint response to be a first response with no satisfactory conclusion, fines, etc. The result will become neighbors hating neighbors. What's the chance of a chicken lover being responsible and considerate of others to medically or electronically mute their nuisance rooster? Next to none.

I live a block away from the Pacific Islanders United Methodist Church located at 2106 Palolo Avenue. The chickens and roosters owned by the property occupants let them run loose, at times they fly and wander into the streets and other people's property, crowing during the day and night when residents are trying to sleep and they multiply like rabbits. Complaints by neighbors accomplished nothing meaningful or lasting. There is no compliance follow-up.

The Palolo Housing Complex's rooster noises continue to plague neighbors who are told the City's contractor set up traps that are destroyed by housing tenants. The contractor say there is nothing more they can do to enforce the law. Neighbors beware this Bill will introduce more roosters to worsen our plight.

This Bill will also serve to encourage the raising and breeding of game roosters for the lucrative sport of cock fighting. An individual associated with the game bird association told me once a person participates in this unlawful activity, they become addicted to it. To

these individuals allowing seven chickens means seven cocks plus one. Opposing these individuals often leads to vandalism to shut-up an opposing neighbor.

SUGGESTIONS -- Please amend this Bill to include the following:

- (1) If you must ignore the objections of many to benefit the few, please reconsider and increase the number of chickens to three, not seven, and delete allowing one rooster. You don't need the rooster to have eggs.
- (2) The owner of a rooster creating nuisance noise complaints must resolve the complaints by removing the rooster or muting the rooster's crowing by medical or electronic means.
- (3) Impose a \$250 fine for non-compliance to correct chronic rooster/chicken nuisance noise and noxious odor complaints. The fine should be increased by 100 percent after 30 days of non-compliance and continue to be increased until compliance is met.

This Bill, if passed, will only benefit chicken lovers. Who will effectively help us victims of the stress and anxiety this will create? Why fix what's not broken creating a hostile neighborhood environment?

Please don't ignore the majority of your constituents to increase the sustenance of a few.

By the way, presently the law allows for two chickens per household, isn't it a blatant disregard of the law that the Chung family of Manoa, as shown on the KGMB newscast Tuesday at 6:00 p.m., flaunting at least five of their chickens in their coop? How effective is law enforcement in this situation? The Chungs break the law and lobby Government to fit their conduct. How ironic is this?

We look forward to your support. Thank you.

Submitted by Wilma Imada